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ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft decisions recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology for adoption by the Conference of the Parties

The Committee on Science and Technology recommends to the Conference of the Parties the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the report of the secretariat contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/5 on modalities and timing of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on inventories of research and traditional knowledge, and research priorities;

1. Encourages Parties and observers to collate information they have respecting the use of traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and to provide reports not exceeding five pages in length on such topic to the secretariat no later than 31 December 1997;

2. Encourages Parties and observers to include in such reports information and comments on the overall role of traditional and local technology and how it might be linked to modern technology, and also on the role of non-governmental and community-based organizations in the gathering of information related to, and in the application of, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices;

3. Requests the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of such reports to submit for consideration at the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

4. Requests the Committee on Science and Technology at its second session to allocate a full additional day, and with the participation of international, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and community-based organization representatives, to allow for a review of the report of the secretariat and discussion of the topic and to reach conclusions and recommendations;

5. Invites Parties and observers, where possible, to make contributions on a subregional or regional basis on this topic during the second session of the Committee.

DRAFT DECISION II

Draft work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

1. Decides that at each session the Committee on Science and Technology will address in depth a priority issue relating to the implementation of the Convention and further decides that the first such issue to be dealt with at the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology will be traditional knowledge;

2. Also decides that the work programme for the second session of the Committee shall include the other topics on the agenda for the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

3. Invites Parties to submit proposals in writing to the secretariat no later than 31 December 1997 on topics for inclusion in the agenda of the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

DRAFT DECISION III

Roster of Independent Experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the proposed roster of independent experts (ICCD/COP(1)/6 and Add.1) prepared by the secretariat in accordance with decision 10/11 based on submissions from Parties by diplomatic channels;

1. Requests Parties to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas are addressed in particular by:

(a) making the roster more balanced in terms of gender representation;

(b) ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines, particularly in the areas of anthropology and sociology, health sciences, legislation, microbiology and trade;

(c) increasing representation of experts from non-governmental and international organizations;

2. Also requests Parties who have not yet submitted experts for the roster to do so as a matter of urgency;

3. Requests the secretariat to ensure that the roster be made available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information;

4. Further requests the secretariat to distribute a paper copy of the roster to Parties on an annual basis.

DRAFT DECISION IV

Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the reports of the secretariat contained in documents A/AC.241/67 and ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4 on other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology;

1. Invites Governments to supplement the information contained in such reports by submitting in writing to the secretariat the names and relevant information on additional organizations, whether national, subregional or regional for addition to such lists by 31 December 1997;

2. Requests the secretariat to consolidate the information contained in documents A/AC.241/67 and ICCD/COP(1)/CST/4;

3. Requests the secretariat to report to the second session of the Conference with a consolidated report, including the additional information received;

4. Requests the secretariat to make the information available in electronic form, as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system, for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information.

DRAFT DECISION V

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 10/9 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD);

Noting with appreciation the reports contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3 and Add.1 containing the comments of INCD members on the status of indicators, the comments of organizations on the work currently under way, and the elements for a method to determine impact indicators;

Recalling also the informal process initiated by the secretariat in accordance with decision 9/12 of the INCD and continued pursuant to decision 10/9 which brought together international, regional and subregional organizations, non-governmental organizations and interested INCD members in the examination of benchmarks and indicators relevant to the Convention;

1. Requests Governments to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in A/AC.241/Inf.4, as revised by ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1;

2. Further requests Governments to report on the utility of such implementation indicators and the practicality of using those indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. Appoints, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 24, an ad hoc panel to be composed of ten experts to be nominated in accordance with the procedures 1/ provided for the establishment of ad hoc panels (ICCD/COP(1)/2) to act as a steering committee to oversee the continuation of such informal process;

4. Encourages the participants in such process to intensify their cooperation and collaboration in the work on benchmarks and indicators in the furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Convention;

5. Requests the interim secretariat, in consultation with the ad hoc panel once constituted, to continue such informal process for the purpose of reviewing the methodology for impact indicators contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1, and for the purpose of determining how the methodology could be carried out and whether it could be recommended for use to the Conference of the Parties;

1/ Adopted with a reservation of Spain.

6. Invites Parties and observers to provide comments in writing by 31 December 1997 to the secretariat on the proposed methodology for impact indicators to be used in the informal process;

7. Requests the ad hoc panel to report on its work to the second session of the Committee on Science and Technology at the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

DRAFT DECISION VI

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Noting the recommendations of the Committee on Science and Technology with respect to the terms of reference and the most suitable contractor for the work contemplated in article 25 of the Convention;

1. Decides to adopt the terms of reference for the work attached in Annex I;

2. Approves the proposal of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of itself and a consortium of members, contained in ICCD/COP(1)/CST/2/Add.1 for the amount proposed, plus 13 per cent programme support costs, and requests the head of the secretariat to enter into any necessary contractual arrangements on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for completion of the work within the framework of the attached terms of reference;

3. Requests UNEP to include the participation of any other organization qualified and able to contribute to the work contemplated in the proposal, provided that such organization indicates its interest to UNEP no later than 15 December 1997;

4. Requests Parties, signatories to the Convention and interested organizations including the Global Environment Facility to contribute to the Trust Fund established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/188 for the purpose of funding the work contemplated by this decision.

Annex

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, it is proposed that the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology will need to be broken into three phases (A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

(a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;

(b) A pilot, in-depth survey evaluation of the potential units in a particular region and subregion;

(c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities.

Pursuant to the proposed programme of work outlined above, the Conference of the Parties, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology, requires the contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of potential units, particularly existing networks and to suggest a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the third session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks expected to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local-level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distribution;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Suggest:

(i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;

(ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the Committee on Science and Technology to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;

(iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Convention.

Contract

Within the framework of these terms of reference, the head of the secretariat is authorized to conclude a contract with the organization or organizations chosen to complete the work in accordance with its or their proposal. The contract shall provide for the work to start once sufficient funds for the completion of the work have been received in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the Parties for the amount specified in the proposal. The contract shall contain such other terms and conditions, including for the supervision of the contract and the mode of payment, as the head of the secretariat shall consider appropriate.